

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-25 are currently pending. Claims 15-21 and 23-25 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding the limitation “the getter film”; Claims 15-17, 19-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,876,260 to Pepi et al. (hereinafter “the ‘260 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,614,785 to Wallace et al. (hereinafter “the ‘785 patent”); Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘260 and ‘785 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,732,359 to Chen (hereinafter “the ‘359 patent”); and Claims 16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘260 and ‘785 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,409,564 to Browning et al. (hereinafter “the ‘564 patent”).¹

In response to the rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 25 has been amended to address the antecedent basis question noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Claim 15 is directed to a method of manufacturing a flat-panel display, including joining a substrate having an electron-emitting element and a faceplate having a phosphor screen so that the electron-emitting element and the phosphor screen face each other with a gap, comprising: (1) at least one of treating the faceplate and treating the substrate, wherein treating the faceplate comprises irradiating an electron beam onto the faceplate

¹ Applicants note that Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the ‘260 and ‘785 patents, but also separately over the ‘260, ‘785, and ‘564 patents. Further, Applicants note that Claim 16 does not recite the supporting frame mentioned in the second rejection of Claim 16 on page 7 of the outstanding Office Action.

accommodated in a treatment vessel while heating the faceplate in a vacuum atmosphere, and forming a getter film on the faceplate onto which the electron beam is irradiated by means of vacuum deposition. Further, Claim 15 recites the step of (2) assembling the substrate and the faceplate, at least one of which has been irradiated with the electron beam; and (3) heating and joining the assembled substrate and faceplate in a vacuum atmosphere. Claim 15 has been amended for the purpose of clarification only and no new matter has been added. In particular, Applicants submit that Claim 15 has been amended only to correct minor informalities.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Office Action asserts that the '260 patent discloses everything in Claim 15 with the exception of "forming a getter film on the faceplate by means of vapor deposition,"² and relies on the '785 patent to remedy that deficiency.

The '260 patent is directed to a method of assembling a flat-panel display screen and includes a degassing of the plates step and a vacuum burning step. However, as admitted in the Office Action, the '260 patent fails to disclose a step of forming a getter film on the faceplate by means of vacuum deposition, as recited in amended Claim 15.

The '785 patent is directed to an anode plate for a flat panel display having a silicon getter. In particular, the '785 patent discloses that a getter material 29 of porous silicon is deposited on the substrate 26 between the conductor region 28 of the anode plate 10.³ However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '785 patent fails to disclose forming a getter film on the faceplate by means of vacuum deposition, as recited in Claim 15. The '785 patent is silent regarding forming a getter film on the faceplate, reciting only that a getter material is deposited on the substrate.

² Page 3 of the Office Action dated December 9, 2003.

³ See '785 patent, Abstract.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '260 and '785 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest forming a getter film on the faceplate by means of vacuum deposition, as recited in amended Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of Claim 15 (and dependent Claims 17 and 19-23) should be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 25 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 15. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 15, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of Claim 25 should be withdrawn.

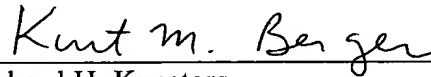
Regarding the rejections of dependent Claims 16, 18, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '564 and '359 patents fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '260 and '785 patents, as discussed above. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 15, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of dependent Claims 16, 18, and 24 should be withdrawn.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 15 and 25 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '260, '785, '564, and '359 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

EHK/KMB/law

I:\ATTY\KMB\215's\215225\215225US-AF.DOC